

1124436 (1) GT TOPP 11/11/52 Mrs Boyne Div 5 B
2 Miss Knowles Lib Hse
3 Library

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE BOROUGH OF GREAT TORRINGTON
FOR THE YEAR 1952.

During the year the general health of the Borough was very good. There were no severe epidemics.

BIRTHS.

There were 34 live births; 18 boys and 16 girls. This included one twin birth (both boys).

The total number of births which took place in Torrington was 70; but in the case of 36 the residence of the parents was not within the Borough. The average total births for the previous 5 years was 70. In 1952 most of the births (76%) occurred in Torrington and District Hospital.

There were no stillbirths.

DEATHS.

There were 47 deaths: 20 male and 27 female. The average number for the previous 5 years was 46. This gives a death rate of 16.9 per 1,000. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1952 was 17.3 per 1,000.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung/bronchus.....	1	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.....	1	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system.....	-	1
Coronary disease, angina.....	4	5
Other heart disease.....	5	13
Other circulatory disease.....	-	2
Pneumonia.....	1	-
Bronchitis.....	1	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system.....	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
Congenital malformations.....	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	1	1
All other accidents.....	1	-

Average ages :- Male 66 Female 75.

There were no infant deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified, and one of non-pulmonary: both were contracted whilst living in Torrington. A third case was added to the Register - the disease was contracted elsewhere and the patient came to live in Torrington. Three patients on the Register went to live away from Torrington. There were no deaths. The cases on the Register at the end of the year were :-



<u>Pulmonary</u>	Male 7	Female 5
<u>Non-pulmonary</u>	Male 1	Female 3

During April the Mass Radiography Unit of the South Western Regional Hospital Board visited Torridge Vale Dairies, Ltd. A total of 158 persons (137 male and 21 female) had their chests X-Rayed. All were found to be normal except 5 - in 3 persons evidence of inactive tuberculosis was found, and the other 2 had non-tuberculous chest conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

No case of venereal disease came to my notice. Facilities for treatment are available at Barnstaple.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was an epidemic of mumps among the School-children during the first 3 months of the year. Apart from this, there were very few cases of infectious disease. The following cases were notified during the year :-

Pneumonia.....6	Measles.....1
Whooping Cough.....3	Erysipelas.....1
Scarlet Fever.....2	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....1
Dysentery.....2	

There was no case of poliomyelitis.

CARE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

There is no Ante-natal Clinic in Torrington. Expectant mothers receive ante-natal attention from their own doctors and from the Queen's Institute District Nurse/Midwives. This arrangement is very satisfactory.

CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic are good. It is held fortnightly by the Health Visitor.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Domiciliary confinements are conducted by the District Nurse/Midwives. They have motor cars, and have portable gas and air anaesthetic equipment.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

The County Health Visitor makes routine visits to all maternity patients in their homes after their confinements. Visits to the homes of tuberculosis patients are made when necessary.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Ambulance Service has been run most efficiently by Heard's Garage. Red Cross Nurses are available to accompany patients whenever required. A midwife always accompanies any woman in labour.

Patients carried during 1952.....469
Total mileage.....17,869

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

County grants towards casual home helps are made when required (e.g. for domiciliary maternity cases). Apart from this there is no organised home help.

TORRINGTON & DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

Admissions during 1952.....216
Out-patients seen.....570
Total out-patient attendances.....1170
Maternity cases.....55

BLOOD DONORS.

The National Blood Transfusion Service (South-Western Region) visited Torrington in October. Seventy-eight volunteers gave blood for transfusion.


WATER SUPPLY.

The Town is supplied with water from the impounding reservoir at Darracott. The capacity of this reservoir is 11,500,000 gallons. The water is treated by slow sand filtration and chlorination. Contamination of the water coming into supply was discovered in March, and it was found that the chlorination plant was defective. A replacement unit was at once installed, since when all samples submitted for bacteriological examination have given Class 1 results. A total of 7 such examinations were made during the year.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

The supply of water was adequate during the year. The lowest level reached by the water in the reservoir was 10'7" below overflow on July 15th., but torrential rain fell during the night of July 15th./16th. and the level rose to 4' below overflow on July 16th. The level continued to rise steadily, until on September 30th. the reservoir was overflowing.

A further length of trunk main was renewed during the year and this, together with the removal of a venturi tube which was greatly restricting the flow through the main, has brought about satisfactory distribution.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30191798>

Approval in principle has now been obtained for the construction of a new filtration and chemical treatment plant, and a new service reservoir. Tenders will be invited in June, and it is expected that work on this will commence during September 1953.

There is a piped water supply to all houses in the built-up area (population about 2,700). Outlying farms and cottages (population about 200) obtain water from their own wells; all such water used for domestic purposes has to be boiled.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A new sewage disposal works, incorporating sedimentation, double filtration and recirculation came into operation on October 18th. At present effluent from the Mill Street and Bidnawell areas, and from the Torridge Vale Dairies drains to the works. A scheme to link up the whole of the Town's sewerage system with the works has been approved in principle, and tenders for the work will be invited at an early date.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No animals for general consumption are slaughtered within the Borough.

The foodstuffs condemned during the year were :-

Beef (home killed)	58½ lbs.	Stewed Steak.....	2 tins
Mutton.....	41 "	Kidney Soup.....	4 "
Liver	3¼ "	Fruit.....	18 "
Luncheon Meat.....	28 tins	Marmalade.....	2 "
Pork Brawn.....	6 tins	Milk.....	2 "
Cooked Shoulder of Ham.....	2 tins		

No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

FOOD-POISONING.

There were no cases of food-poisoning.

W. R. Briggs

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

